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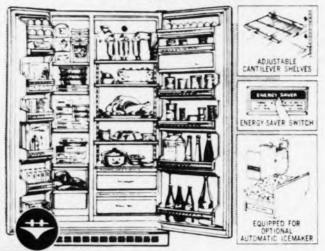
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Singles

[continued from page 2]

single you have control over your own goals. I remembered, and said I'd taken years to discover any assets of singleness. Laurie suggested the group could be a shrortcut. She asked what I'd discovered. "Independence!" I said. "The freedom to do as I please, when I please."

Others agreed. Being single gives you the freedom to have peanut butter sandwiches for dinner if you feel like it, to buy an extravagant item. Someone else thought freedom should be a part of marriage. But many said it hadn't been for them.

Another woman said independence isn't an asset if you're single and a parent. "You still have to meet the kids' demands. But you need an adult to talk to, at breakfast, at supper."

Someone raised the question whether a single person's goals would differ whether ever married. It was not resolved. One woman spoke of never-marrieds who led fulfilled lives. Another described an architect who looked successful but hated her lonely apartment.

Another paradox: everyone agreed singles and marrieds both think the others lead great lives. The singles envy the security and companionship of marriage. The marrieds look, longingly at the freedom and independence of the single life.

We began searching for reasonable goals for the single person. For many the goal is some degree of self-sufficiency. One man said his wife taught him to broil steak before they split up. Now, he just broils, never fries or bakes. For another it was paying bills. There was some sharing of information about which mate kept house, which relocated. Contrary to the stereotype, some men kept the house, the woman moved out.

The man who broils steak offered the next paradox to the effect marriage, which we expect will maintain a high degree of passion from courting until death do us part, is actually an inhibiting relationship. He illustrated the point

Another said his wife underestimated what he could do on his own. He developed far more in cooking, art, literature and theater than in marriage.

For others the goal is establishing identity when you're no longer part of a pair. An articulate woman was painting during divorce. "The paintings hang on the wall now," she said, "with no name on them."

The identity problem seemed more acute for women who think of themselves as Mrs. John Smith rather than Jane Smith. "My wife thought of herself as Chuck's wife," said a man. "No one should do that."

Several women pointed out with some anger, that for years women have been raised to submerge in another's identity.

The conversation returned to self-sufficiency. One woman said after six months it's a daily struggle and a major goal. Another said after five years it's no longer a problem. A third, still single, said living alone is something you get used to. "You realize you have to do everything, get the car fixed, hassle with the phone company, pay the bills, shop for food. There's only you to do it." Another learned to look at her cup as half full, not half empty.

At this point came the ultimate paradox: "It's only when you achieve your goal of independence that you realize you don't depend on other people for companionship, that you can really "joy them as companions."

Nea 10, the meeting broke up. People return d the chairs to the rack, packed up the wine and cheese and made arrangement to meet elsewhere. "No matter how positive the topic is," said Jean, "some have problems, bitterness, pain and anger that needs to come out. We need to deal with that, not dwell on it."

I went home with the feeling some had faced themselves, their situation, their feelings, their problems, discovered some goals, some truths. Perhaps another positive aspect of being single is the impetus to do this.

Commonwealth Of

Massachusetts

PROBATE COURT
PLYMOUTH,ss. No.128,850
NOTICE OF PROBATE
OF WILL

Estate of HENRY J. O'BRIEN late of Scituate, in the County of Plymouth NOTICE

A petition has been presented in the above-captioned matter praying that HENRY J. O'BRIEN, JR. of Arlington, in the county of Middlesex, be appointed executor thereof, without surety on his bond.

If you desire to object to the allowance of said petition, you or your attorney should file a written appearance in said Court at Plymouth, on or before July 30, 1979.

Witness, JAMES R. LAW-TON, Esquire First Judge of said Court at Plymouth, the twenty-seventh day of June, in the year of our Lord one thousand nine hundred and seventy-nine.

John J. Daley Register of Probate (July 12, 19, 26, 1979)

Of Massachusetts

NORFOLK, SS.
PROBATE COURT

Public Notices

NO. 79F1687A1 NOTICE OF APPOINTMENT

To all persons interested in the estate of CHARLES A.MC-NEIL. JR. late of Cohasset, in the county of Norfolk. And to the Attorney General of said commonwealth, if required.

NOTICE

A petition has been presented in the above captioned matter praying that RITA L. MC NEIL, of Cohasset, in the county of Norfolk, be appointed administrator without sureties on the bond.

If you desire to object to the allowance of said petition, you or your attorney should file a written appearance in said court at Dedham on or before ten o'clock in the forenoon on 8/22/79.

Witness, ROBERT M. FORD, Esquire, first judge of said court at Dedham, the fifth day of July in the year of our Lord one thousand nine hundred and seventy-nine.

Thomas Patrick Hughes
REGISTER OF PROBATE

7/19, 7/26, 8/2 1979

Commonwealth Of Massachusetts

No. 127,529 PROBATE COURT PLYMOUTH, SS.

To MATILDA MACK and to all persons interested in the estate of MATILDA MACK of Scituate, in said County, — a mentally ill person.

A petition has been presented to said Court for license to sell at — private sale — certain real estate of said MATILDA MACK for investment.

If you desire to object thereto you or your attorney should file a written appearance in said Court at Plymouth before ten o'clock in the forenoon on the thirteenth day of August, 1979, the return day of this citation.

Witness JAMES R. LAW-TON, Esquire, First Judge of said Court this eighteenth day of July, 1979.

JOHN J. DALEY Register

(7/29, 8/2, 8/9)

Dial The Mariner At 545-3950